**Reading Journal “Chunk” Assignment**

As you read Tolstoy’s novella, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, I want you to focus on honing your skills for style analysis. You need to do 6 journal entries in "chunk format" and focus on the analysis of a part of DIDLS (diction, imagery, detail, language, syntax). These will be due shortly after we finish reading the novella.

**Teacher Samples:**

***The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal (Syntax- Antithesis)**

Wiesenthal describes the "[polyglot](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Polyglot) mass of humanity" gathered together in the camp as spanning the "rich and poor; highly educated and illiterate; religious men and agnostics; the kindhearted and the selfish; courageous men and the dull-witted" (5). This use of antithesis encourages readers to contemplate on the broad range of citizens who have been persecuted for their race, removed from their everyday lives, and brought together in these cramped and cruel prisons. This emphasis removes any blame from the victims as we are abruptly reminded that these people were united solely through their common race, providing a warning to all that we must always remember our common humanity.  
  
**Disney’s *The Lion King* (Diction- Symbolism)**

As Mufasa sits atop Pride Rock and presents the kingdom to his wide-eyed son, he explains that “everything the light touches” is a part of Simba’s territory, but that the “shadowy places” are “beyond [their] boundaries” and are therefore forbidden. This juxtaposition of light and dark portrays the presence and absence of hope and knowledge as the inhabitants of the light understand the delicate balance of nature, but those in the dark places only live for selfish gratification and power. This is symbolic of the contrasting doctrines of the opposing rulers as it foreshadows the eventual descent of the kingdom into darkness, perhaps even alluding to the dark places in the soul, which Simba will have to conquer to take his place as king.

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (Diction and Syntax- Parallel Structure)**

As the ship waits for the tide at the base of the Thames River, he meditates on the "greatness [that] had ... floated on the ebb of that river into the mystery of an unknown earth" carrying "the dreams of men, the seed of commonwealths, the germs of empires." This description of the ocean as mysterious and "unknown" reminds readers that endless possibilities await beyond the tide, and the parallel phrases connect these "dreams of men" with the beginnings of great and terrible civilizations while providing a flowing cadence that mimics the rhythm of the tide. The author is building the narrator's persona as a dedicated sailor by displaying this sense of awe on the cusp of setting sail into the dark, distant horizon.

**“The Female Body” by Margaret Atwood**

Atwood refers to the doll as “thing” and “one” and “it” never actually naming it Barbie, only mentioning its “wardrobe” and “pointy plastic.” These indefinite pronouns are vague—words that lack precision or individuality and at times create ambiguity. Perhaps Atwood’s vague pronouns constitute a criticism of Barbie, who lacks individuality and ultimately endangers young girls’ psyches by promoting a generic idea of beauty, confusing or complicating young girls’ attempts to reconcile societal perceptions with personal notions of self.

**Notes:**

* Make sure to focus on DIDLS!
* You must include a proper MLA citation for Tolstoy’s novella at the end of your journal. (Mini-lesson to come on this!)
* You must include page numbers as parenthetical citations for your CD sentences.